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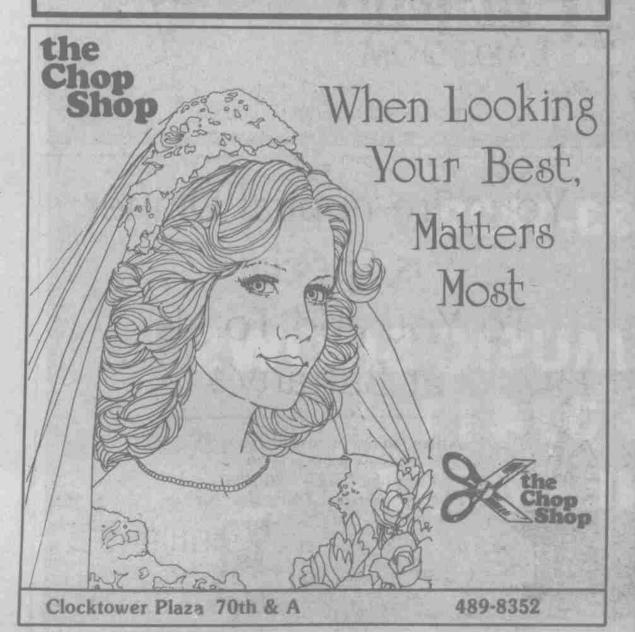
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Craig Andresen/Dally Nebraskan

Kirk Welsch, by the power vested him by P.O. Pears, begins the wedding of Bill Allen and Cindy Macklem. Bill is the one with the beard. Cindy is the cute one.

Pears' 24-hour marriage 'just for the fun of it'

When the Bosses That Be first asked me to do a story for the wedding supplement, I was skeptical.

That's like asking Ma and Pa Walton to do a seminar on birth control. Wrong

As a confirmed bachelor, my advice to prospective husbands always has been, "Don't do it."



I'd say, "Look, you're not gaining a wife, you're losing any chance you ever had to go out with the Solid Gold Dancers."

To me, marriage meant going to the movies to watch the movie. It meant bowling once a week, watching TV every night and trips to visit Mother on the weekends. And kids.

But a popular Lincoln bar actually has made marriage fun. That's right...

Every Monday night, P.O. Pears, 322 S. Ninth St., unites couples in their long-running 24-Hour Marriage promotion

The key phrase here is "24 Hours."
This is a quickie, folks. No blood test, no bridal registry, you're already at the reception and, best of all, it's over in 24 hours.

Craig Kingsley, a manager at the bar and restaurant, said the 24-hour marriage is "one of our promotional ideas. It brings people in on Monday night."

Monday nights, as many of you students might imagine, aren't big business nights for bars. Kingsley said this promotion gives the customers a good impression of the bar.

"If people are having fun, they come back," he said.

Every couple united in the little chapel set up on the dance floor receives a free bottle of champagne, \$10 worth of "walking around money" (a kind of Pears gift certificate), a wedding portrait, a marriage (and divorce) certificate and, of course, the rings.

I decided the only way I really could tell you about this was to get married myself... for only 24 hours, of course.

When I asked Cindy to marry me, her first response was, "But what if the kids look like you?"

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